



**BOOKS MEN SHOULD READ**





# 31 RANDOM FACTS ABOUT MIKE

Mike Cernovich is a **licensed attorney** who has taken the year off from the practice of law to see how big he can grow Danger and Play.

The **reader survey** results are in. People want to know more about me. I hate talking about myself and have always been a shy, behind-the-scenes guy. I understand that due to the fraudulent nature of the Internet that people want to know more about me.

**HERE YOU GO.  
THIS IS ALL VERIFIABLE STUFF.**

**1.** I grew up on welfare. I had two pairs of pants to last me the entire school year. I never knew anything about money and ran into credit troubles later on in life.

**2.** One of the most traumatic memories I have was visiting my mom in a nut house when I was 14. She had bipolar and quit taking her medicine after demons had been cast out of her. I more or less wrote her off after that. I also wrote off all of the “Christians” who told her to quit taking her medicine after they weren’t there for my family after leading her astray.

**3.** I had some form of mental illness until my late-20s and came close to suicide many times. I cured it with N-A-C, proper nutrition, and

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mindset exercises. The only reason I never killed myself was because of my love for my grandmother and the devastation that the “golden child” killing himself would bring her. I wasn’t able to attend my grandmother’s funeral due to a severe medical issue and have lived in denial of this grief for two years. I still have not allowed myself to process her death, and can feel my chest tighten and my eyes well up as I type these sentences.

**4.** I got bullied relentlessly and then beat up everyone who had ever wronged me. I developed a strong sense of justice and desire to help the underdog. I hurt anyone who wrongs me and hold lifetime grudges.

**5.** I got awesome grades in college and could have gone to any graduate school in the country for philosophy. I went to law school out of the naive desire to help people.

**6.** I had to learn how to downplay my intelligence, as it made peers resentful of me. I can pretty much figure anything out in about 1/3 the time it takes other people.

**7.** I earned the highest class grade in 4 law school courses – including the highly competitive constitutional law classes.

**8.** I didn’t have a great overall class rank because if I don’t care about something, I won’t put the work into it.

**9.** I am either highly motivated or totally lazy. As David Hume would say, I am ruled by my passions.

**10.** I lack the ability to work in a corporation. In fact, I could never work for anyone.

**11.** I started my own legal research and writing business in law school. I haven’t had a W-2 in over a decade. Lawyers would outsource their writing to me. I ghostwrote briefs that were filed in the United States Supreme Court as a 3L.

**12.** I got a guy off a murder charge while I was still in law school. I got another guy off on an Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition issue.

**13.** I’ve been acknowledged in several different scholarly works. I worked as a research assistant for one of the biggest names in constitutional law.

**14.** I don’t Google my own name because it doesn’t matter what people say about me behind my back. However, if I happen to be somewhere and see that someone is lying about me, I will light that person up.



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**15.** My legal writing was cited in two separate federal court opinions before my 30th birthday. (Ask your lawyer friends if they have ever been cited in any judicial opinion.)

**16.** I wrote several entries for The Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties, so yes, I can say I've literally written the encyclopedia on some of the legal issues I cover.

**17.** I passed the California Bar Exam after studying less than 40 hours.

**18.** My results expired while I fought a false rape case, so I took the California Bar Exam again. I may be the only attorney who can say he took the California Bar Exam twice – and passed both times.

**19.** Yes, I am a licensed attorney. I could delete Danger & Play tomorrow and go make a lot of money as a trial lawyer.

**20.** I have had a seven figure payday. I never have to work another day in my life, as the interest/capital gains and trivial amount of money I bring in from Danger & Play funds my humble lifestyle.

**21.** The money did not change me. Well, it made me a bit more mellow. I don't want things money can buy (glamor, fancy clothes) but rather freedom from anxiety.

**22.** Being falsely accused of rape made me extremely depressed. I got fat. I lost all of the weight and kept it off.

**23.** I graduated Army Officer Candidate School.

**24.** I have been a guest at Sheryl Sandberg's house and ate dinner with Mark Zuckerberg. Sheryl Sandberg overtly flirted with me and Mark Zuckerberg and his flunkie (forget his name – Chris Cox?) were insecure around me. That's when I learned that money can't buy what I have.

**25.** I don't get truly pissed off (what you see on D&P is intensity, not anger) very often. When I do, people don't know how to respond. They say I "overreact," to which I say, "Then don't push me."

**26.** I am very chill with people. Often they mistake this for weakness and are surprised when I push back.





**27.** I don't believe in fighting over money. If someone has a scarcity attitude about money, I just won't deal with them ever again.

**28.** I don't believe in giving people second chances. I have always been burned. Poor choices reveal poor character. Unless there is evidence that there has been a change of character, the person is dead to me.

**29.** I always remember people who helped me out along the way. Personal loyalty is my core personal value.

**30.** I hate talking about myself.

**31.** Sometimes I look at Danger & Play and feel like crying. I am more proud of D&P than of anything else I've done in my life.

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU  
WANT TO KNOW?**





# DANGER & PLAY

## BOOKS MEN SHOULD READ

**READING IS THE MOST CONSISTENT  
ASPECT OF MY LIFE OVER THE PAST  
COUPLE OF DECADES.**

Women have come and gone. Friends have come and gone. I've **made and saved and spent money**. I've been **fat** and fit and jacked.

But books have always been there. I read a lot and also believe in using audiobooks to avoid wasting time. Here's my **review of Audible**, an audiobook subscription service I subscribe to. You **can get a free book** during their trial offer period.

I have boxes of book from college stashed at my parents house. I have boxes of books that my ex-wife probably threw away. I've donated carousels of books to libraries over the years.



A FEW BOOKS STAND OUT.

People want my book recommendations. You may be disappointed as you'll notice something. I'm a nerd.

The only reason I'm such a bad ass now is because I was bullied as a child. I had to learn **how to win a street fight** or else suffer the indignities of never-ending ass beatings and the shame of knowing I was weak.

If I had lived in a sane, civilized world, I wouldn't be this **vanilla gorilla**. I'd be a poet.

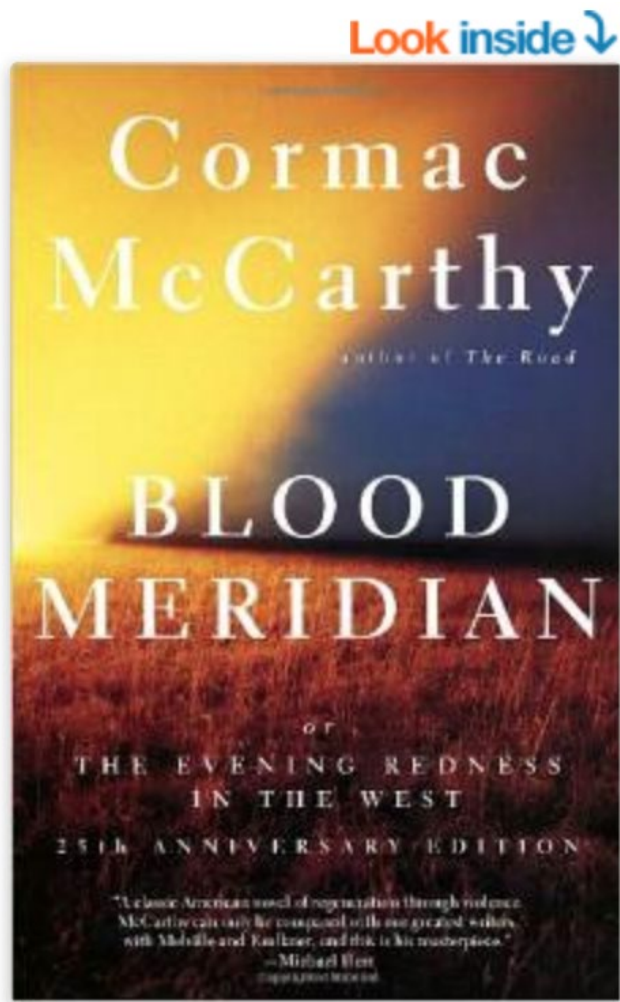
By the way, if you are used to only reading blogs, some of these books will knock you on your ass.

But you will have an understanding of the world and yourself that fewer than 1% of men have.

Blood Meridian: Or the Evening Redness in the West

by Cormac McCarthy (Author)

★★★★☆ 793 customer reviews



Unbridled will meets the Wild West in this tale of violence and savagery. Although the violence is extensive, it's not gratuitous. McCarthy has a point.

Violence and war are as natural to men as sleeping. Men will always seek warfare. In the Wild Wild they will murder and maim. In the modern world, they will start businesses and start "Twitter wars."

The means may change but the motivation remains the same – the will to conquer and destroy.

Blood Meridian is lyrically rich prose. If you grew up reading the King James Version Bible, you'll find Blood Meridian to be damned poetic.

Learn More





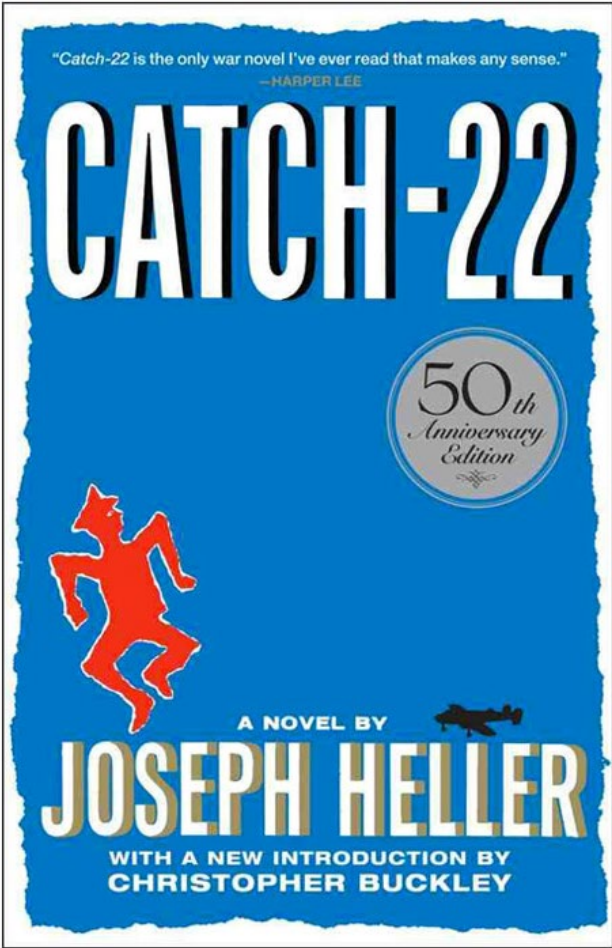
Catch-22: 50th Anniversary Edition

by [Joseph Heller](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 1,249 customer reviews



Look inside ▾



It's fiction that you should read like it's non-fiction, as it's one of the best explication of human thinking around. It also got me over puppy love. I was 19 when I read it, and could not understand why this girl whom I treated nicely ended the relationship to date a jerk. She wants a nice guy but if you're nice she doesn't want you – that's a Catch-22. More broadly: People want what they want until they get it, in which case they don't want it anymore. This is completely nuts, but such is the human condition.

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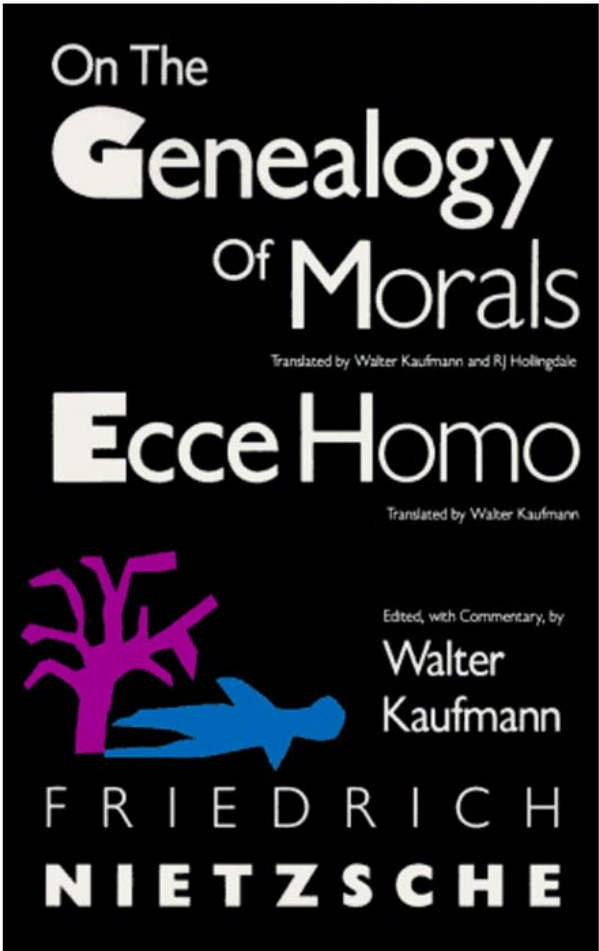
On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo

by [Friedrich Nietzsche](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 25 customer reviews



Look inside ▾



Where did morality come from? What drives it? What's its purpose? Nietzsche was a philologist, and it showed. Through tracing the history and development of morality, we learn that morality exists for one reason – to oppress.

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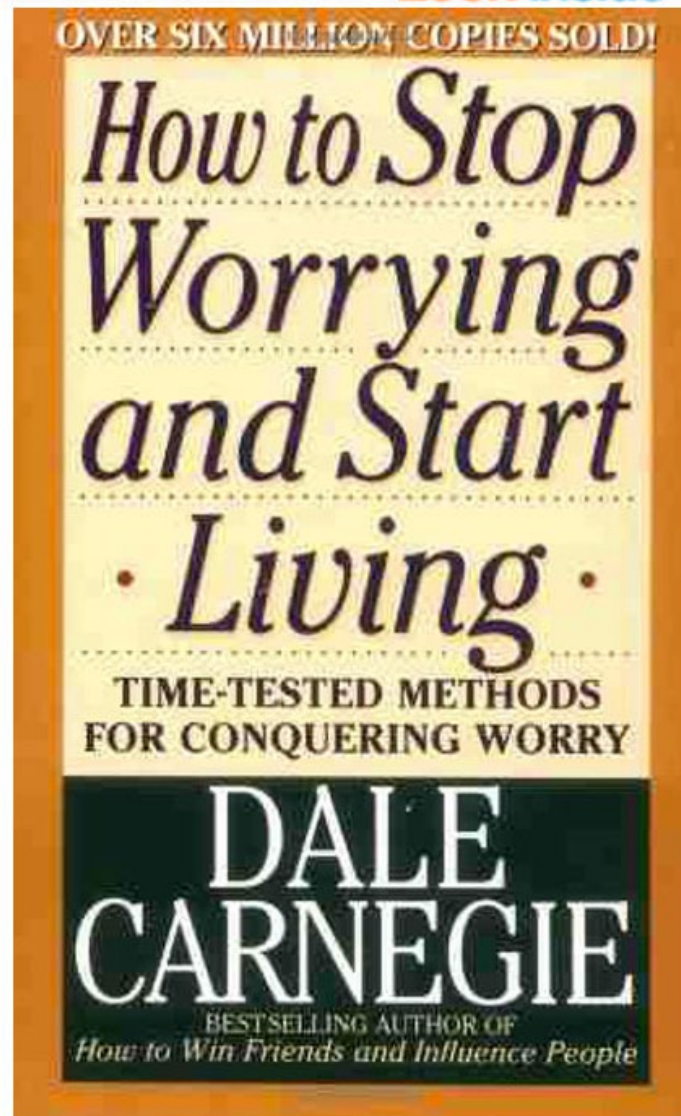
## How to Stop Worrying and Start Living

by [Dale Carnegie](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 441 customer reviews



Look inside ↴



I listed to this audiobook as a humble teenage boy **during a road trip**. It changed my life.

Dale Carnegie (yes, the same guy who wrote *How to Win Friends and Influence People*) gives you countless methods to **learn how to overcome anxiety**.

It's an easily accessible book that is also deep. In fact, I try copying his writing style.

[Learn More](#)

Dale Carnegie was also doing lists before list posts were popular.

### 3 Ways to Break the Worry Habit Before It Breaks You

1. Keep busy
2. Don't fuss about trifles
3. Use the law of averages to outlaw your worries

### Four Good Working Habits That Will Help Prevent Fatigue and Worry

1. Clear your desk of all the papers except those relating to the immediate problem at hand
2. Do things in the order of their importance
3. When you face a problem, solve it then and there if you have the facts necessary to make a decision
4. Put enthusiasm into your work

### Seven Ways to Cultivate A Mental Attitude That Will Bring You Peace and Happiness

1. Fill your mind with thoughts of peace, courage, health, and hope
2. Never try to get even with your enemies
3. Expect ingratitude
4. Count your blessings, not your troubles
5. Find Yourself and Be Yourself (Remember There Is No One Else on Earth Like You)
6. Try to profit from your losses
7. Create happiness for others



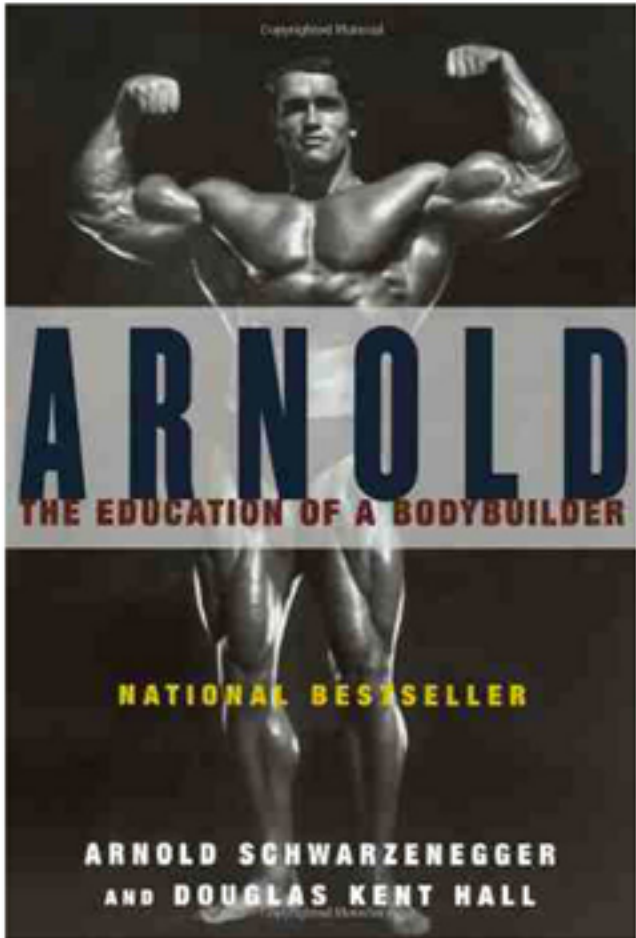


Arnold: The Education of a Bodybuilder

by [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) ▾ (Author)  
★★★★★ ▾ 159 customer reviews



Look inside ↓



Arnold is one of the most interesting men to have ever lived. His success is due to one thing – pain. Most people move away from pain. They think that the absence of pain leads to pleasure. Yet people who have lived pain-free lives are boring and almost always unsuccessful. Always seek pain in what you do, because pain leads to pleasure. That’s true of life inside the weight room and outside of the weight room.

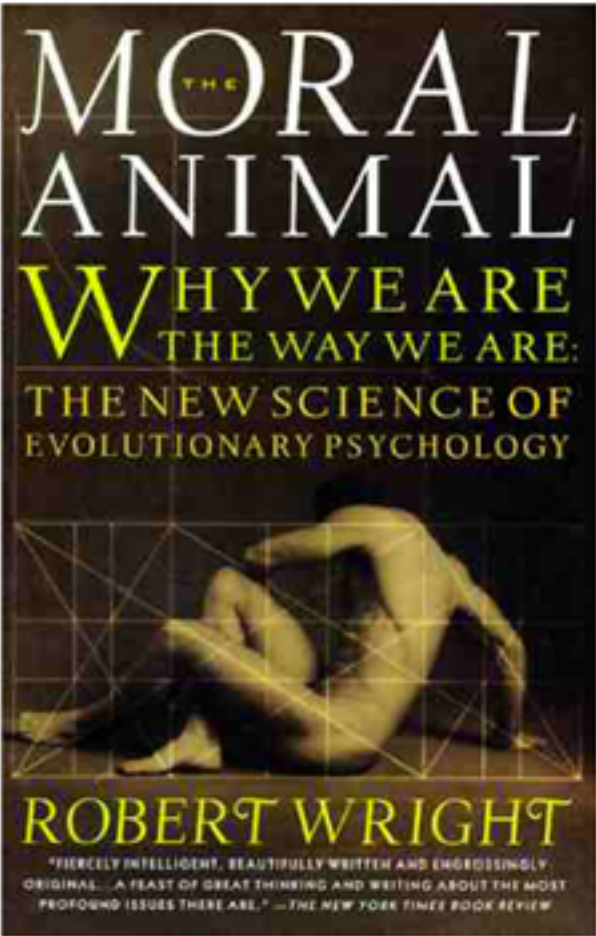
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The Moral Animal: Why We Are, the Way We Are: The New Science of Evolutionary Psychology

by [Robert Wright](#) ▾ (Author)  
★★★★★ ▾ 187 customer reviews



Look inside ↓



In the Moral Animal, Wright introduces evolutionary psychology to a wider audience. I read all of the original books (e.g., The Selfish Gene, Sociobiology) after reading Wright’s book. The Moral Animal does a great job of summarizing all of the earlier works and is a great introduction to evolutionary psychology.

Learn More





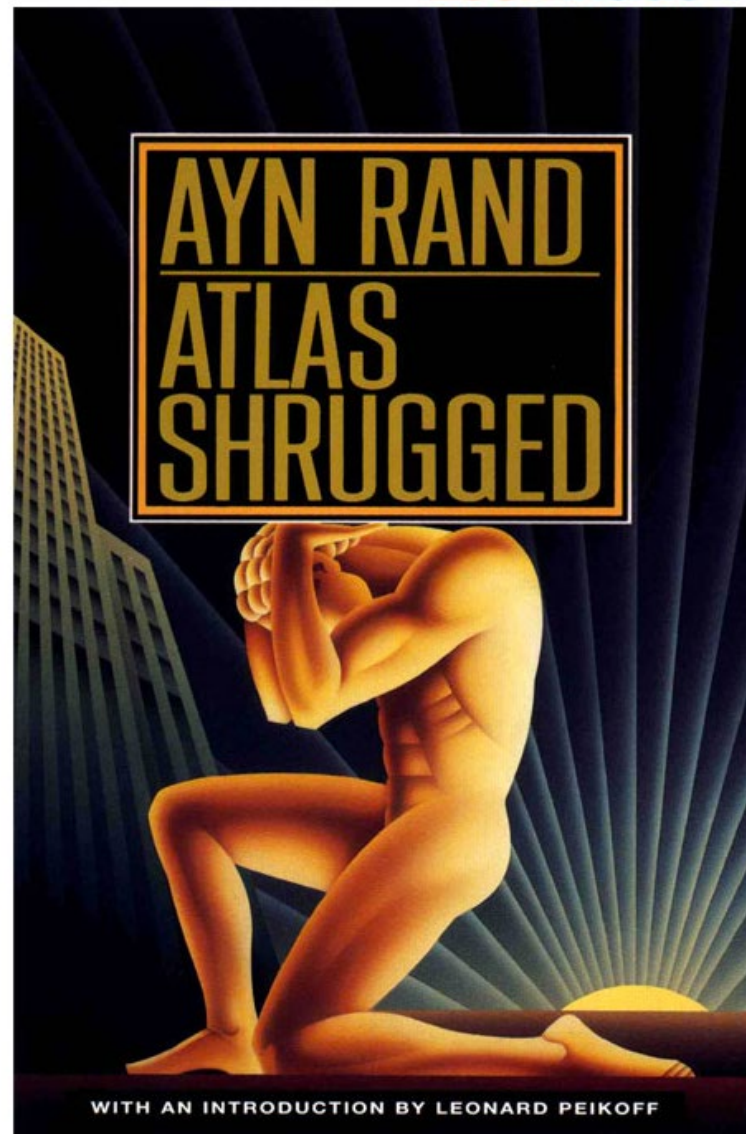
## Atlas Shrugged

by [Ayn Rand](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 4,289 customer reviews



Look inside ↴



Although I outgrew my childish objectivism, Rand does a remarkable job of describing the resentment (a concept from Nietzsche) that public officials and so-called public servants feel towards productive members of society.

Those who claim to act in the public interest – characters such as Wesley Mouch – are actually **haters**.

Public servants very often hate those who are more successful and directly undermine them.

Or they seek to enrich themselves at the expense of the public. Al Gore says he is fighting global warming. Yet he flies on gas-guzzling private jets and lives in a Tennessee McMansion that sucks the power grid dry. Al Gore earns six-figure speaking fees. WHY doesn't he give this money to the poor? Does he really need \$100 million dollars?

Al Gore, like Goldman Sachs, lobbies for cap-and-trade and continues to propagandize about global warming. Why? Because the best way to enrich one's self is to hide the profit motive underneath a cloak of public service.

Never trust anyone who says, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

[Learn More](#)





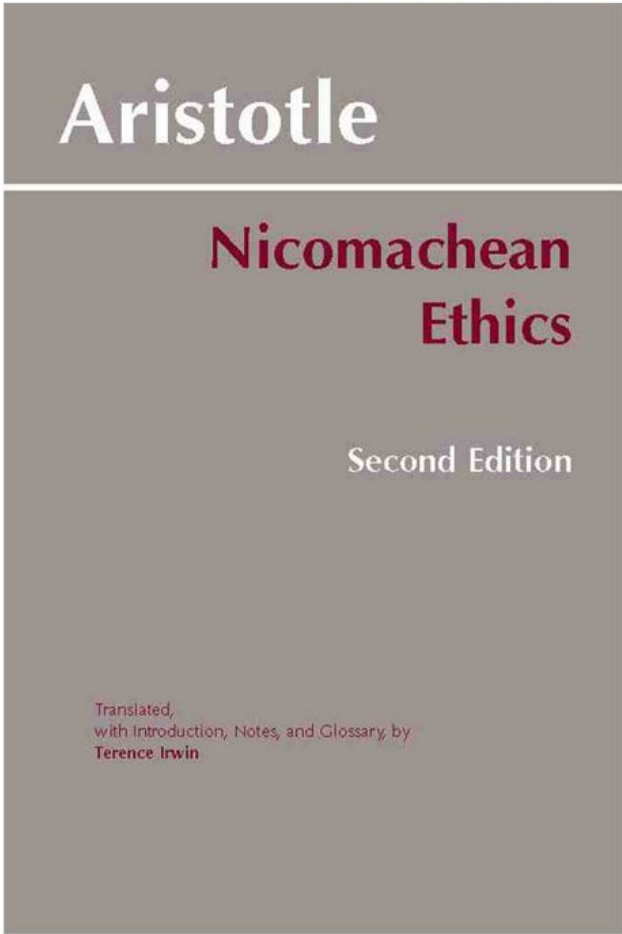
Nicomachean Ethics

by Aristotle (Author)

★★★★★ 32 customer reviews



Look inside



While there is much good in the Ethics, most important of all is Aristotle’s discussion of friendship. No one after Aristotle has anything interesting to say about friendship, and if a person created his friendships based on the Ethics, he would live a fulfilled life.

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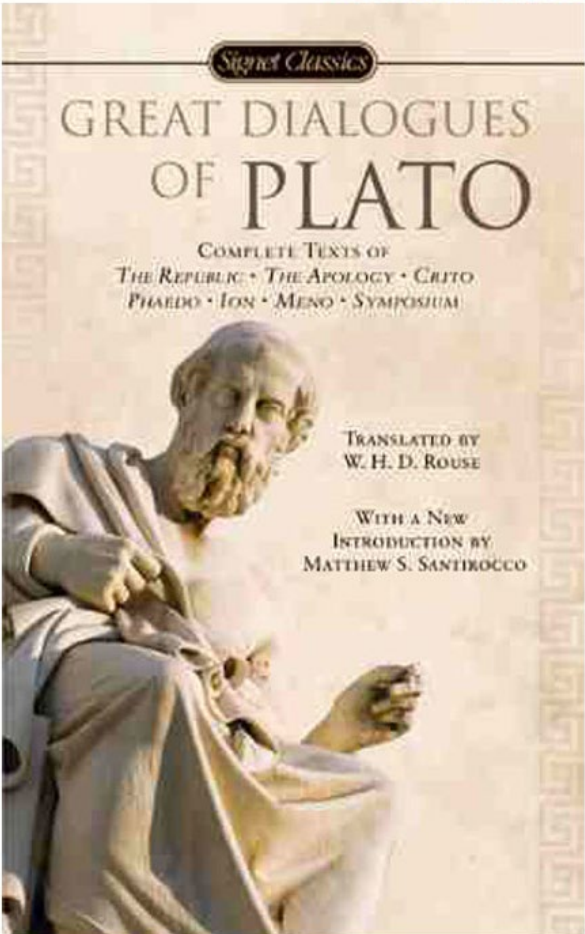
Great Dialogues of Plato

by Plato (Author)

★★★★★ 32 customer reviews



Look inside



If you want to become a better writer or thinker, you have to learn how to ask better questions.

Socrates got me thinking philosophically, and changed how I questioned common truths.

I don’t agree with Plato’s metaphysics (Forms). The value in Plato is learning to question everything.

Learn More

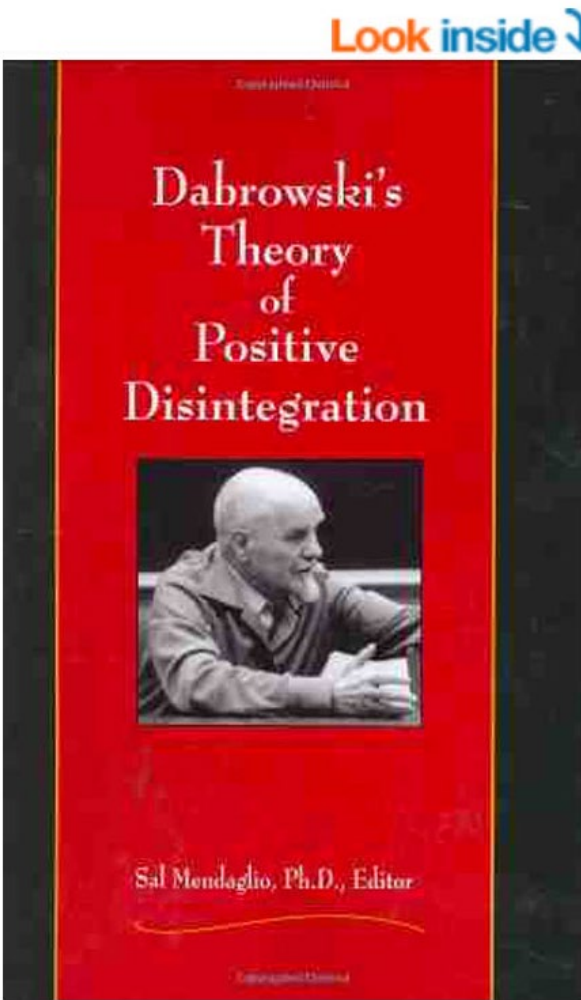




## Theory of Positive Disintegration

by [Kazimierz Dąbrowski](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 3 customer reviews



I have had a “nervous breakdown.” Society teaches that such breakdowns are harmful, when in fact breakdowns are necessary for spiritual and personal growth.

In a world of child molestation, animal cruelty, **false rape accusations**, and all around oppressiveness: How can a decent person not have a nervous breakdown?

According to Dabrowski, every complex person will have a nervous breakdown. These breakdowns can lead to **higher levels of consciousness**.

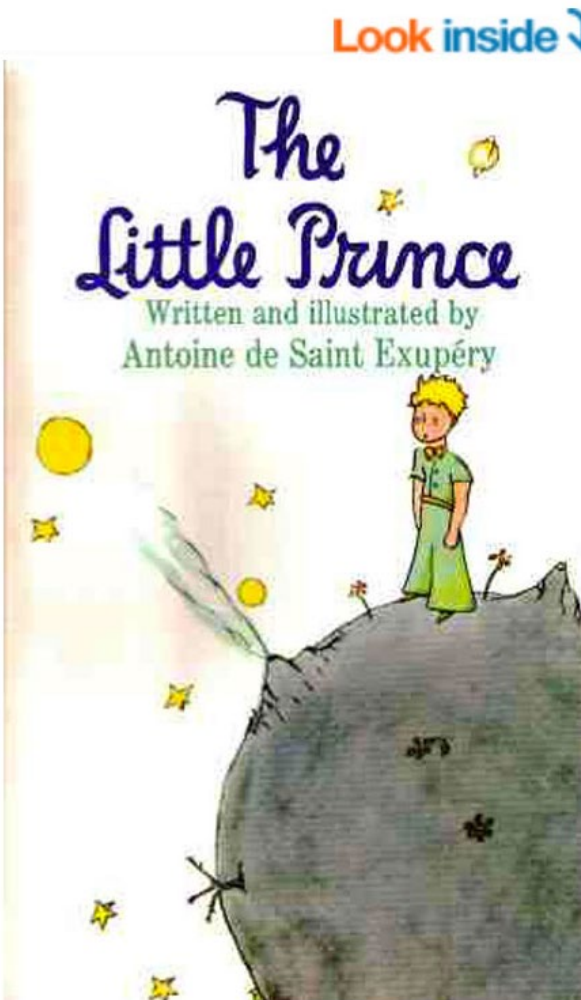
The disintegration of lower-levels of consciousness is positive. Neurosis and breakdowns are not diseases. They are merely stages that a complex man will undergo on his question for truth.

[Learn More](#)

## The Little Prince

by [Antoine de Saint-Exupéry](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 1,097 customer reviews



Yes, The Little Prince s a “kid’s book.” It’s also a book I’ve read at least a dozen times.

In 70 pages – with pictures – I challenge anyone to better describe love (the rose), the obsession with money (the fat banker), and vicious cycles (the alcoholic).

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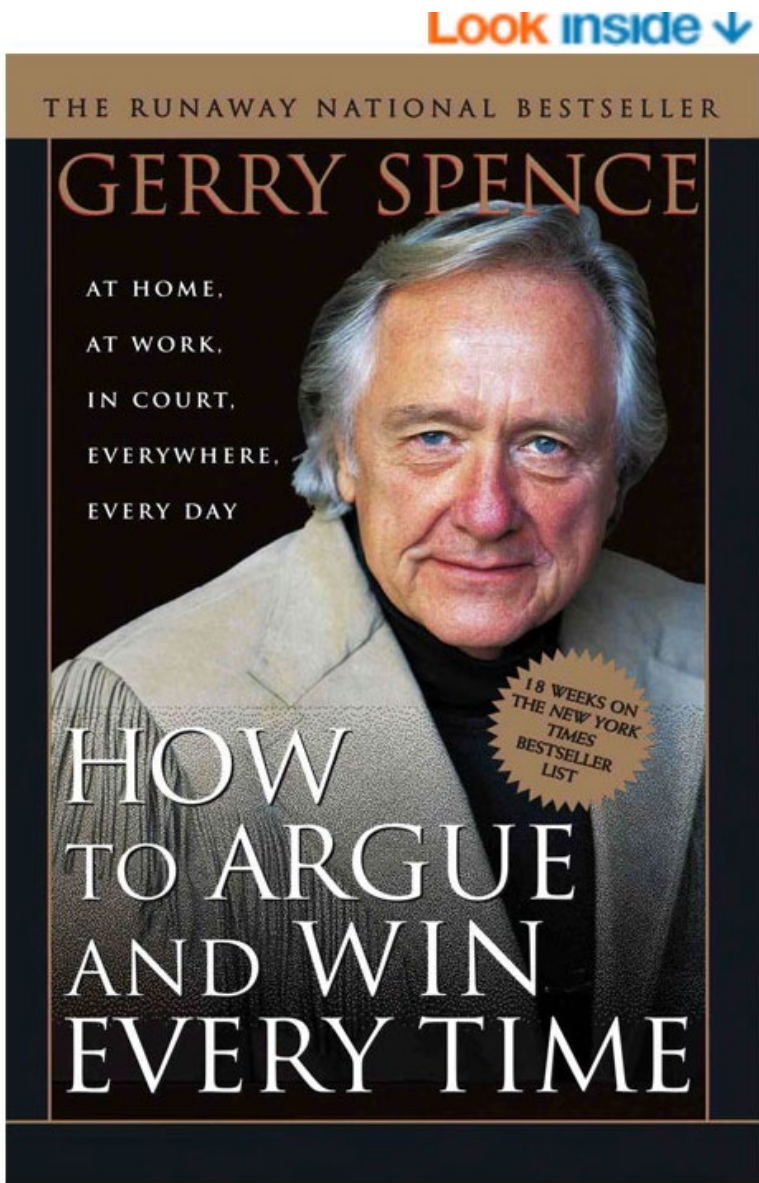




# How to Argue and Win Every Time

by [Gerry Spence](#) (Author)

★★★★★ 149 customer reviews



Gerry Spence fills up a room. When he walks into a room, you feel it before you see him. Your neck hairs will stand up.

In fact, I have lot of rich people. I’ve met Mark Zuckerberg. I’ve had dinner at Sheryl Sandberg’s home with deci-millionaires and billionaires.

They have no presence, especially compared to someone like Gerry Spence. I’ve attended several of his training courses and there is something about him that you cannot explain with words. You meet the man and ... you just feel something.

If you want to learn **how to become charismatic**, How to Argue and Win Every Time is a great start.

**Bonus:**

Sometime I’ll tell how I got fired for calling Gerry Spence a limousine liberal on my old legal blog.

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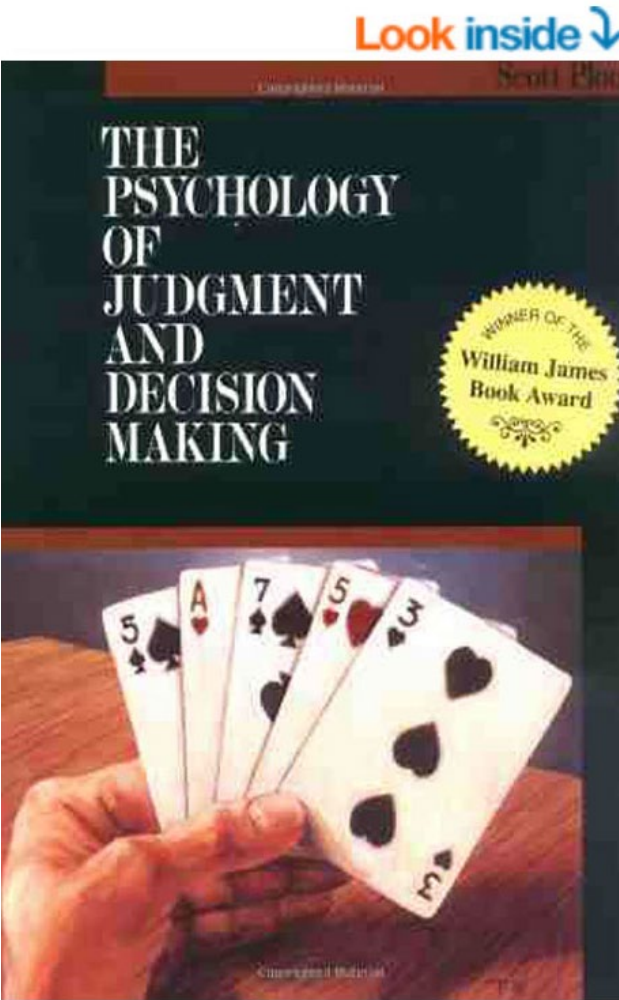




## The Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making

by [Scott Plous](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 32 customer reviews



More than any other book in the past few years, The Psychology of Judgment and Decisionmaking changed the way I think. It's an introduction to cognitive bias.

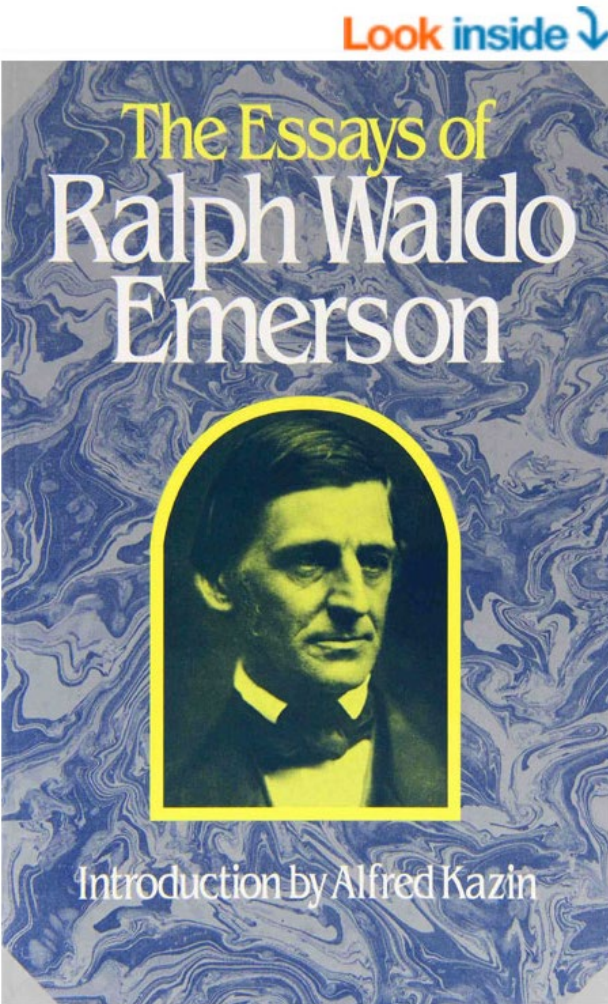
The Psychology of Judgment and Decision-making has **changed how I think** about my own life, and the means and methods I use when persuading others. I bought several copies to give as gifts, and recommended it to everyone I respected.

[Learn More](#)

## The Essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson (Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson)

by [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#) ▾ (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 26 customer reviews



I've been reading Emerson since my teenage years and still am inspired by his message.

“There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till.” Free online, too, if you Google around.

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